



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

No. 30

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through Your authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed. Today, assist our Senators with Your spirit of counsel and fortitude. May they always seek the ways of righteousness, justice, and truth as You empower them to lead with honesty and integrity.

Lord, make them so faithful to their calling of public service that Americans may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and reverence. Give them wisdom to make decisions that will strengthen and prosper our land. We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 13, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the remarks of the leaders, if there be any, there will be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. That time will be controlled equally until 5 p.m. The two leaders can fix who their designees will be.

We expect to be in a position sometime today to vote on adoption of the conference report to H.R. 1. Our cloakroom has issued an alert to all Senators. Any Senators who want to come and speak, they should at least alert the cloakroom they need some time to do that. We have an order in effect of 10 minutes each. If someone wants to talk longer, fine; we have no problem with that at all. But we do need some idea as to how many people wish to speak on this legislation. There have been a number of speeches given during the last few days about it, but if some want to amplify or add to those remarks, that would be fine.

I have been in close touch with the Republican leader during the last 24 hours, and we are going to do our best to try to come up with a time today.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

TIMING OF VOTE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me second the remarks of the majority leader. We have a number of Members, not surprisingly on an issue of this magnitude, who would like to speak—Senator MCCAIN is already here—and we will be doing that during the day. I will get a sense of how many speakers we have, and after that I think we should be able to come to an agreement for a time certain on the vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, while the leaders are on the floor, I would like to mention, I hope we will continue to observe the one side speaking and then the other side that we have been going through in the last few days. I think a lot of people have been able to voice their views on this very important issue before the Senate. I reiterate, if my colleagues who would like to speak on this issue would call the cloakroom and also indicate how long they plan to speak, it would help us arrive at a time for a vote today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Senator suspend?

Mr. MCCAIN. Certainly.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2257